



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services
County Counsel

At its meeting held May 9, 2006, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Director of Children and Family Services' recommendation to approve the implementation of an Office of Independent Review (OIR) for the Department to provide an independent review of County administrative investigations of children that are seriously injured or child fatalities due to suspected abuse or neglect who have been under the supervision of, or who are known to the Department; approve and instruct the Mayor to sign a three-year agreement with Michael Gennaco of OIR to provide specialized legal services, which includes serving as lead counsel and coordinating the work of two subordinate attorneys, at no cost to the County contingent upon his continued provision of specialized legal services to the Sheriff and reimbursement for necessary expenses, effective May 9, 2006 or date of execution, whichever is later, through May 8, 2009.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

"To ensure that the proposed Office of Independent Review, Department of Children and Family Services (OIR DCFS) meets the needs of the Board of Supervisors, the Chief Attorney should report to the Board regularly and frequently. Additionally the OIR DCFS should have expertise in child welfare/foster care issues in order to effectively and efficiently provide an independent analysis of the foster care system, specific foster care cases, and the Department of Children and Family Services' death and injury review process."

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Board approved the Director of Children and Family Services' attached recommendation, as amended to instruct the County Counsel and the Director of Children and Family Services to amend the language in the Office of Independent Review, Department of Children and Family Services' contract as follows:

1. Amend Section 1(e) to state that the Chief Attorney shall provide the Board with oversight reports quarterly rather than "at least every six months"; and
2. Add a section relating to Sections 1(h) and 1(i), stating the Deputy Chief Attorney and/or the Deputy Attorney will have experience with the child welfare and/or foster care system.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor

Chief Administrative Officer